NCB's investigations. The matter being subjudice, no remedial action is proposed to be taken at this stage.

Social upliftment by Private Banking Industry

599. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged upon the private banking industry to take up the work of social upliftment in rural areas and the large segments of Indian populace in remote areas; and

(b) what is banks' response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to the guidelines issued by Reserve bank of India (RBI) private banks are also required to observe priority sector lending target of 40 per cent of net bank credit, of which 18 per cent is to be for agriculture and 10 per cent for the weaker sections. These guidelines also stipulate that the new banks in the private sector will also be required to open 25 per cent of their branches in rural and semi-urban areas. As reported by RBI, private-sector banks are by the large able to achieve their priority lending targets, though there are some shortfalls in lending to agriculture and weaker sections.

Assistance to AP

600. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to provide financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh to enable it to tide over the current financial problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to take some steps to ensure that such financial assistance is invested genuinely in development Programmes by the State Government; and

(d) if sp, the details thereof and by when such assistance is likely to be granted.